

GREAT LAKES BORDER HEALTH INITIATIVE

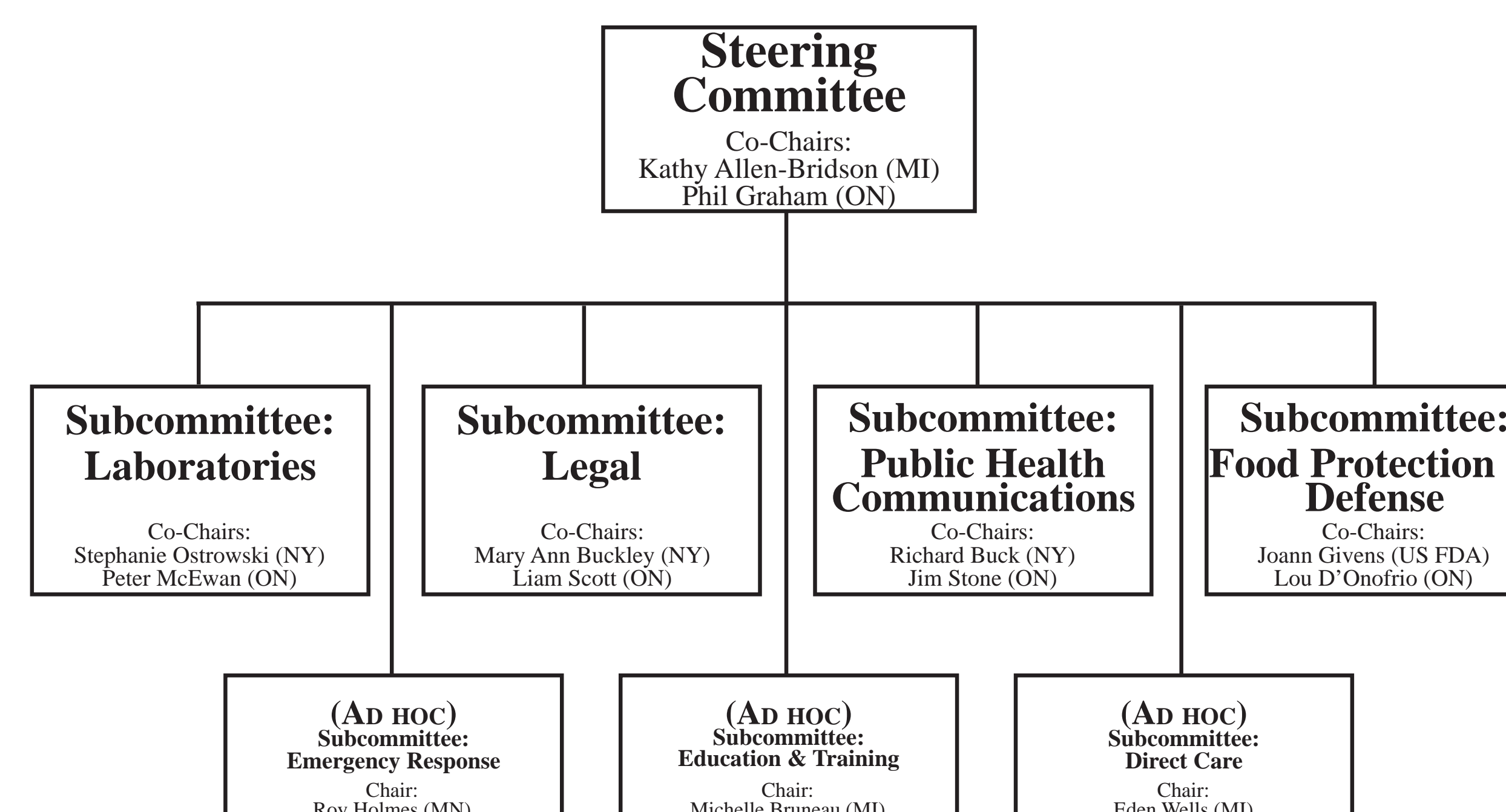
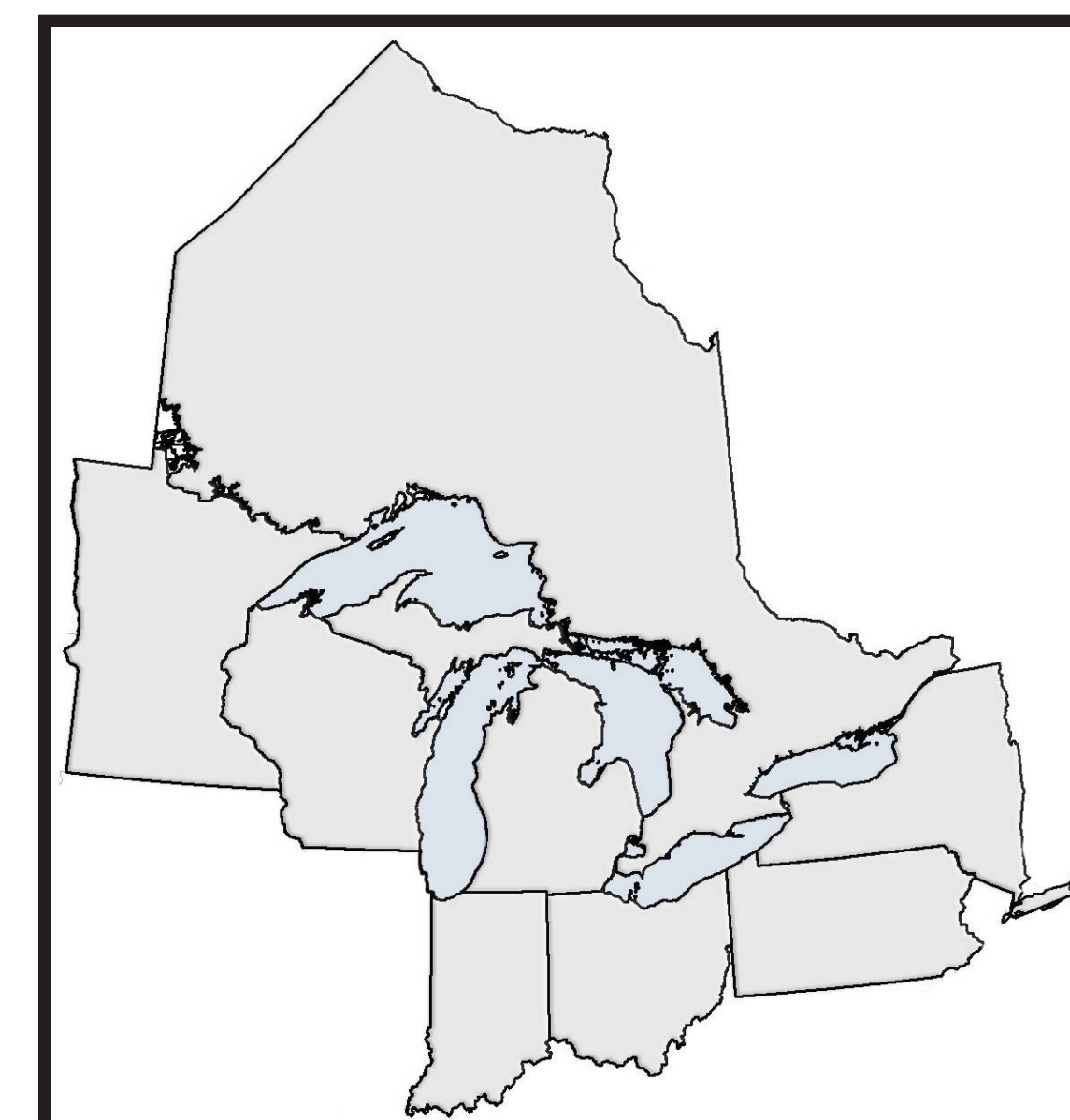
INDIANA • MICHIGAN • MINNESOTA • NEW YORK • OHIO • ONTARIO • PENNSYLVANIA • WISCONSIN

Timeline

- 2003 → The Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS) project initiated. It is funded by DHHS with management provided by the CDC.
- Border Health Initiative developed between Michigan Department of Community Health & Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care along with local health departments/units from both jurisdictions
- 2004 → Initial Cross-border contact list completed
- Comparison table of notifiable diseases in Ontario and Michigan compiled
- 2005 → New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota join with Michigan and Ontario - the Border Health Initiative is renamed; becomes the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI)
- 2006 → Ontario public health officials enrolled on Michigan Health Alert Network (MI-HAN)
- Ohio joins GLBHI
- Cross-border lab visitation program launched
- Successful test of cross-border MI-HAN alerting
- 2007 → Pennsylvania joins GLBHI
- Pilot enrollment of approximately 25 Canadian public health workers on the U.S. Epi-X System. Evaluative survey performed which found overwhelming support for the cross-border enrollment by Canadian users.
- Indiana joins GLBHI
- Ratification of the GLBHI Infectious Disease Emergency Communication Guideline and the Data Sharing Agreement by Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ontario and Wisconsin.

About GLBHI

Seven U.S. states - Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin - have banded together with the Canadian province of Ontario to identify means to share public health infectious disease information quickly, securely, and lawfully. Participation from all levels of government - federal, state/provincial, local, and Tribes/First Nations - is vital to the Initiative's success.



GLBHI is directed by a steering committee consisting of state and provincial leads, the chairs of each of the active GLBHI subcommittees, representatives from select local public health agencies, and representatives from Tribes/First Nations positioned near the United States/Canadian border. There are four primary subcommittees comprised of health, legal, food safety and emergency preparedness professionals representing all levels of public health - local to federal. Subcommittees meet each month to discuss best practices and means to achieve specific goals per the DHHS/CDC agreement. Ad hoc subcommittees are formed if necessary to address specific grant requirements.

Framework

Partnerships and collaboration between all facets of public health administration are crucial to preventing and controlling infectious disease outbreaks. GLBHI's goal is to provide the framework from which key cross-border relationships can be molded and nurtured in order to further protect the public's health. The current GLBHI framework consists of:

- the Public Health Data Sharing Agreement and the Infectious Disease Emergency Communication Guideline
- cross-border enrollment on the US and Canada's national health surveillance systems - the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epi-X and the Public Health Agency of Canada's CIOSC
- an annual regional conference
- several smaller, locally-focused conferences
- cross-border sharing of Health Alert Network (HAN) messages
- monthly steering and subcommittee meetings



The fifth annual GLBHI Conference will be held on July 9 & 10, 2008 in Ann Arbor Michigan.

Please contact Kathy Allen-Bridson (allen-bridsonk@michigan.gov) for more information.

